

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-14 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, as applied to the claims remaining after entry of the foregoing amendments, is respectfully traversed.

With particular regard to the Examiner's comments concerning the recited percentages in claims 9-11, each of these claims has been amended to indicate that the percentages are based on the joining auxiliary agent. This is apparent from Examples 1-33 in Figs. 4-6, where all of the percentages total 100%.

Claim 14 has been replaced by new claims 16-19, which are the same except for their dependency. These new claims recite the process steps, responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claim 14 as being indefinite in that no process steps are recited.

New claim 15 recites methanol as the organic solvent, attention in this regard being directed to, for instance, Examples 1-3, all of which recite this solvent.

The only remaining grounds for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 concern the Examiner's comments in paragraphs 4-6 on page 4 of the Office Action. The Examiner questions whether the language "which cleaves a hydrogen bond . . ." and the language "capable of dissolving . . ." limit the claimed subject matter. These expressions do limit the claimed subject matter, in the sense that they recite properties of compound (1) and the organic solvent. With regard to the Examiner's question of how the joining auxiliary agent can contain the polyamide dissolved therein, please see, for instance, Examples 8-10 in Fig. 4, all of which contain a polyamide dissolved in the joining auxiliary agent. Further attention in this regard is directed to paragraph [0014] in the specification, concerning the function of the dissolved polyamide.

The Examiner has also required an election of species, in response to which Applicants elect 1,3-dihydroxybenzene as compound (1); 3,5-dihydroxybenzencarboxylic acid as compound (2); and methanol as the organic solvent. All of these species are illustrated in the working examples. All of claims 1-13 and 15-19 read on the elected species.

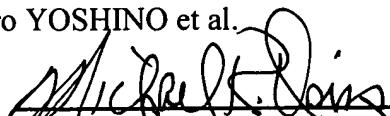
Applicants emphasize that the foregoing elections are made while reserving their rights under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter.

Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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